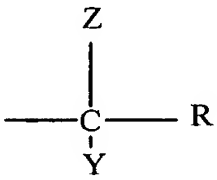
This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A method of treating ~~a retroviral~~ an infection by ~~a retrovirus selected from the group consisting of HIV,~~ HCMV ~~and~~ or HHV in an afflicted host which comprises administering to the host a therapeutically effective amount of a compound represented by the following formula:

or a pharmaceutically acceptable acid-addition or base-addition salt thereof;
wherein:

component A is ~~a substituted or unsubstituted aryl functional group, substituted or unsubstituted piperidyl, substituted or unsubstituted thiophencyl~~ a functional group of the following formula:

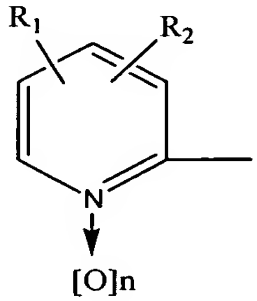


wherein Z is H, Cl, cyano, alkyl having from 1 to 15 carbon atoms, alkoxyalkyl having 2 or 3 carbon atoms; Y is H or a double bond to a carbon which is attached to R; and R is phenyl, biphenyl, benzyl, naphthyl, anthranyl, pyridyl, thienyl, quinolyl, isoquinolyl or phenyl substituted with 1 to 5 substituents which may be the same or different, the substituents being selected from the group consisting of lower alkyl having from 1 to 5 carbon atoms, halogen, nitro, methoxy, ethoxy, benzyloxy, methylenedioxy, 2,2-dichlorocyclopropyl, trifluoromethyl, methylsulfonyl, cyano and phenoxy;

component L is sulfonyl, sulfinyl or thio; and,

component B is a substituted or unsubstituted ~~aromatic nitrogen containing~~

~~heteroaryl functional group~~ quinolyl or a functional group of the following formula:

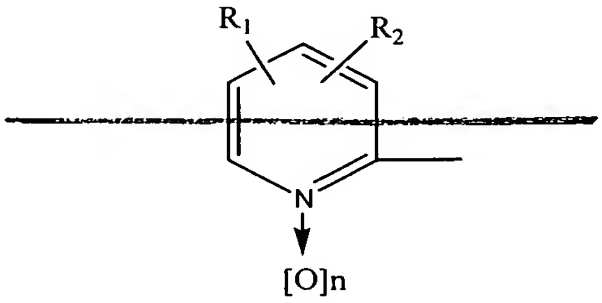


wherein n is 0 or 1, R_1 and R_2 may be the same or different and are H, halogen, lower alkyl having from 1 to 4 carbon atoms, hydroxy, or nitro.

2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the ~~retroviral~~ infection being treated is an infection by ~~a retrovirus selected from the group consisting of HIV-1, HIV-2, and~~ HHV-6.

3. (Canceled)

4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the substituted or unsubstituted ~~aromatic nitrogen containing heteroaryl functional group component B~~ quinolyl is 4-methylquinolyl; or 8-ethyl-4-methylquinolyl ~~or a functional group of the following formula:~~



~~wherein n is 0 or 1, R_1 and R_2 may be the same or different and are H, halogen, lower alkyl having from 1 to 4 carbon atoms, hydroxy, or nitro~~.

5. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the compound is selected from

the group consisting of 2-(phenylmethylsulfonyl) pyridine-N-oxide, 2-[1-(2,5-dimethylphenyl)octylsulfonyl] pyridine-N-oxide, 2-[(2,5-dimethylphenyl)methylsulfonyl] pyridine-N-oxide, 2-[[1-(2,5-dimethylphenyl)ethyl]sulfonyl]-3-methylpyridine-N-oxide, 2-[[1-(2,5-dimethylphenyl)chloromethyl]sulfonyl]-4-methylpyridine-N-oxide, 2-[1-(2,5-dimethylphenyl)chloromethyl]sulfonyl pyridine, 2-[1-(2,5-dimethylphenyl)methylthio]-3-chloropyridine-N-oxide, 2-[phenylmethyl]thio-3-hydroxypyridine, 2-[(2,5-dimethylphenyl)methylthio] pyridine, 2-[(2,3,4,5,6-pentachlorophenyl)methylsulfonyl] pyridine N-oxide, 2[1-(phenylethyl)sulfonyl]-8-ethyl-4-methylquinoline, 2-[(3,4-dichlorophenyl)methylsulfonyl] pyridine-N-oxide, 2-[(4-(2,2-dichlorocyclopropyl)phenyl)methylsulfonyl] pyridine-N-oxide, 2-[(2,4,6-trimethylphenyl)methylsulfinyl] pyridine-N-oxide, 2-[(3-nitro-4-chlorophenyl)methylsulfonyl] pyridine-N-oxide, 2-[phenylmethylsulfinyl] pyridine-N-oxide, 2-[[1-(2,5-dimethylphenyl)propyl]sulfonyl]-3-methylpyridine-N-oxide, 2-[(9-anthryl)methylsulfonyl] pyridine-N-oxide, 2-[4-((1,1dimethyl)propyl) phenyl)methylsulfonyl] pyridine-N-oxide, 2-[1-(2,5-dimethylphenyl)ethylthio]-4-methylquinoline, 2-[[(2,5dimethylphenyl)methyl]sulfonyl]-3-methylpyridine-N-oxide and pharmaceutically acceptable acid-addition and base-addition salts thereof.

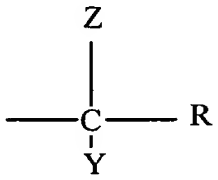
6. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the compound is contained in a composition containing a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

7. (Currently Amended) A method of inhibiting the replication of ~~a retrovirus selected from the group consisting HIV,~~ HCMV~~, and~~ or HHV~~,~~, the method comprising contacting the ~~retrovirus~~ HCMV or HHV with an effective amount a compound represented by the following formula:

A —— L —— B

or a pharmaceutically acceptable acid-addition or base-addition salt thereof;
wherein:

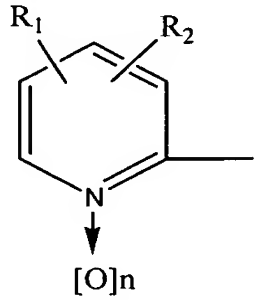
component A is ~~a substituted or unsubstituted aryl functional group, substituted or unsubstituted piperidyl, substituted or unsubstituted thiophencyl~~ a functional group of the following formula:



wherein Z is H, Cl, cyano, alkyl having from 1 to 15 carbon atoms, alkoxyalkyl having 2 or 3 carbon atoms; Y is H or a double bond to a carbon which is attached to R; and R is phenyl, biphenyl, benzyl, naphthyl, anthranyl, pyridyl, thienyl, quinolyl, isoquinolyl or phenyl substituted with 1 to 5 substituents which may be the same or different, the substituents being selected from the group consisting of lower alkyl having from 1 to 5 carbon atoms, halogen, nitro, methoxy, ethoxy, benzyloxy, methylenedioxy, 2,2-dichlorocyclopropyl, trifluoromethyl, methylsulfonyl, cyano and phenoxy;

component L is sulfonyl, sulfinyl or thio; and,

component B is a substituted or unsubstituted ~~aromatic nitrogen containing heteroaryl functional group~~ quinolyl or a functional group of the following formula:

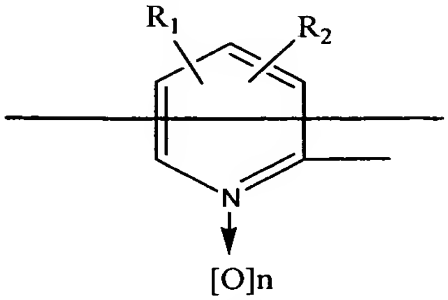


wherein n is 0 or 1, R_1 and R_2 may be the same or different and are H, halogen, lower alkyl having from 1 to 4 carbon atoms, hydroxy, or nitro.

8. (Amended) The method of claim 7 wherein the ~~retrovirus~~ HHV whose replication is being inhibited is ~~a retrovirus selected from the group consisting of HIV-1, HIV-2, and~~ HHV-6.

9. (Canceled)

10. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 7 wherein the substituted or unsubstituted ~~aromatic nitrogen containing heteroaryl functional group component B~~ quinolyl is 4-methylquinolyl; or 8-ethyl-4-methylquinolyl ~~or a functional group of the following formula:~~



~~wherein n is 0 or 1, R_1 and R_2 may be the same or different and are H, halogen, lower alkyl having from 1 to 4 carbon atoms, hydroxy, or nitro~~.

11. (Original) The method of claim 7 wherein the compound is selected from the group consisting of 2-(phenylmethylsulfonyl) pyridine-N-oxide, 2-[1-(2,5-dimethylphenyl)octylsulfonyl] pyridine-N-oxide, 2-[(2,5-dimethylphenyl)methylsulfonyl] pyridine-N-oxide, 2-[[1-(2,5-dimethylphenyl)ethyl]sulfonyl]-3-methylpyridine-N-oxide, 2-[[1-(2,5-dimethylphenyl)chloromethyl]sulfonyl]-4-methylpyridine-N-oxide, 2-[1-(2,5-dimethylphenyl)chloromethyl]sulfonyl pyridine, 2-[1-(2,5-dimethylphenyl)methylthio]-3-chloropyridine-N-oxide, 2-[phenylmethyl]thio-3-hydroxypyridine, 2-[(2,5-dimethylphenyl)methylthio] pyridine, 2-[(2,3,4,5,6-pentachlorophenyl)methylsulfonyl] pyridine N-oxide, 2[1-(phenylethyl)sulfonyl]-8-ethyl-4-methylquinoline, 2-[(3,4-dichlorophenyl)methylsulfonyl] pyridine-N-oxide, 2-[(4-(2,2-dichlorocyclopropyl)phenyl)methylsulfonyl] pyridine-N-oxide, 2-[(2,4,6-trimethylphenyl)methylsulfinyl] pyridine-N-oxide, 2-[(3-nitro-4-chlorophenyl)methylsulfonyl] pyridine-N-oxide, 2-[phenylmethylsulfinyl] pyridine-N-oxide, 2-[[1-(2,5-dimethylphenyl)propyl]sulfonyl]-3-methylpyridine-N-oxide, 2-[(9-anthryl)methylsulfonyl] pyridine-N-oxide, 2-[4-((1,1dimethyl)propyl) phenyl)methylsulfonyl] pyridine-N-oxide, 2-[1-(2,5-dimethylphenyl)ethylthio]-4-methylquinoline, 2-[[(2,5dimethylphenyl)methyl]sulfonyl]-3-methylpyridine-N-oxide and pharmaceutically acceptable acid-addition and base-addition salts thereof.

12. (Original) The method of claim 7 wherein the compound is contained in a composition containing a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

13. (Withdrawn)

14. (Withdrawn)

15. (Withdrawn)

16. (Withdrawn)

17. (Withdrawn)

18. (Original) A method of treating an HCMV infection in an afflicted host which comprises administering to the host a therapeutically effective amount of a compound selected from the group consisting of 2-[(2,5-dimethylphenyl)methylthio] pyridine, 2-[1-(2,5-dimethylphenyl)octylsulfonyl] pyridine-N-oxide, 2-[[1-(2,5-dimethylphenyl)propyl]sulfonyl]-3-methylpyridine-N-oxide, 2-[(9-anthryl)methylsulfonyl] pyridine-N-oxide, 2-[4-((1,1dimethyl)propyl) phenyl)methylsulfonyl] pyridine-N-oxide, 2-[1-(2,5-dimethylphenyl)ethylthio]-4-methylquinoline and pharmaceutically acceptable acid-addition and base-addition salts thereof.

19. (Original) A method of treating an HHV-6 infection in an afflicted host which comprises administering to the host a therapeutically effective amount of a compound selected from the group consisting of 2-[(2,5-dimethylphenyl)methylsulfonyl] pyridine-N-oxide, and 2-(phenylmethylsulfonyl) pyridine-N-oxide and pharmaceutically acceptable acid-addition and base-addition salts thereof.